

~Approved 2-17-22~
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
Zoom meeting
January 18, 2021, 6:00 pm

In Attendance: Greg Orcutt, Cathy Minkiewicz, John Christensen, Clark Rattet and Doug Ruskin

Also present: Skipper Manter, Bruce Stone, Jen rand, Cindy Mitchell and Janice Haynes

Greg called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

Minutes to approve:

- **January 11th:** there were no comments or edits given. Some members had not yet read them and abstained from the vote.

Clark made the motion approve the minutes of January 11th. John seconded. Roll call vote: Greg – yes, Clark -yes, John – yes, Doug and Cathy abstained. (3-0-2) Minutes approved.

New Business:

- **Discussion of MVRHS and UIRSD School Budgets:**

Greg reported on the UIRSD meeting the other night and said that they are at an impasse on the budget and are looking for input from the Fin Coms and Select Boards. Skipper spoke and gave some insight to the impasse issues, having to do with the E & D funds and what should be done with them. There was much discussion about how they should spend or apply the funds.

Doug made the motion that the Finance Committee recommend to the UIRSD that the excess E & D funds be applied to the revenue portion of the budget to lower the assessments to the towns. Cathy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor (5-0-0)

Regarding the MVRHS Clark reported that E & D is also an issue and OPEB funding and some other issues. The budget is certified but we will still want to call them in. No action taken.

- **Review of scheduled Departmental Budgets:**

Pam Thors, ZBA was present to answer questions on her budget and brought her narrative that was missed before. After receiving her Narrative there were no other questions. Jen Rand was present to answer questions on the Town Buildings budget line and she was able to explain the reductions to the satisfaction of the committee. She also explained the increase in the Street lights was due to their age and needing to be replaced and the fact that they will be contracting a new maintenance vendor for them. No action taken.

- **Budget review schedule for January:**

Janice shared the schedule she has thus far set up. The committee will be meeting with the WTFD, WTPD, TTA and Building Department next on Thursday January 20th at 5 pm. She is still trying to confirm a date for the schools.

Old Business:

- **Clarification of Budgets with line item questions**

Greg reported that he had spoken with Emma Green-Beech from the MV Shellfish Group and gotten an explanation of their budget increases. They decided they did not need to call them in.

As for the Assessors, they are refusing to come and discuss their legal line with the Fin Com. Skipper pointed out that last year it was brought to the voters and they reduced it by half. It was decided to send them a short note asking that they reduce the legal line or the Fin Com will again ask for it on the floor at ATM

Clark made the motion to send a note to the Board of Assessors asking them to reduce the legal line. Doug seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor (5-0-0)

Janice will draft a simple note and bring it to the next meeting for approval before sending.

- **Finance Committee Report for Annual Report:**

John shared the report he had drafted and will email a copy for everyone's review and notes. They will discuss and vote to approve at next meeting.

Committee Reports:

There were no official committee reports but Cathy made note that the Select Board would be discussing Building Department permit/inspection fees again at tomorrow's meeting with Joe present. Doug thinks they should ask the voters at ATM how they feel about raising fees.

Topics Not Anticipated: There were none.

*With no further items to discuss, Doug made the motion to adjourn. Clark seconded.
Roll call vote – all in favor*

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Haynes
Administrative Assistant